



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Red Porgy Measures Are Approved

NOAA Fisheries has published a final rule that will implement Amendment 12 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. The purpose of Amendment 12 is to protect the red porgy resource, which is currently overfished. This amendment will also facilitate timely implementation of measures for the protection of essential habitat for the snapper-grouper resource and modify the snapper-grouper limited access system to allow same owner trip-limited permit transfers regardless of vessel size.

Beginning on August 29, 2000, recreational anglers will be restricted to a recreational bag limit of one red porgy per person per day and commercial fishermen will be allowed a 50 pound trip limit for permitted vessels. The minimum size limit for commercial and recreational fishermen will be 14 inches total length.

From January through April, the commercial red porgy fishery is closed and the purchase and sale of red porgy is prohibited. Also, during the same period the possession of red porgy aboard vessels with Federal snapper-grouper permits (i.e. commercial and charter/headboats) is limited to one red porgy per person per day or one per person per trip, whichever is more restrictive.

Beginning on September 22, 2000, owners of vessels with the 225-pound trip limited commercial permit may transfer their permit to another vessel regardless of size. It should be noted that trip-limited permits cannot be transferred to another person.

Copies of Amendment 12 can be obtained from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; phone 843-571-4366; FAX: 843-769-4520.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the final rule should be sent to Peter Eldridge, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702.

This and other news releases are available on the Southeast Regional Office homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>.

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